



# JMUN 2024

## SOCHUM



Addressing the situation pertaining to the  
use of illegal human labour with special  
emphasis on Asia-Pacific-based and South  
Asian Nations

## BACKGROUND GUIDE



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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Greetings Delegates!

Welcome to the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee for the 2024 edition of the Junior Model United Nations Conference of Greenwood High!

We, the executive board of the Committee, hope you are prepared to step into the world of Model United Nations. SOCHUM, the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, stands as a vital forum within the United Nations. You must achieve a mastery of foreign policy, a deep understanding of the crises at hand, and in-depth knowledge of international law to achieve success in this committee.

As delegates, you will have the extraordinary responsibility of dealing with some of the most pressing issues around the world, and work towards a common solution after a session of intense debate and communication. And the topic at hand is no easy one to deal with. You will be working on an issue that has been an extremely prevalent issue around the world, plaguing the lives of millions of individuals every single day – illegal labour. More specifically, you will have to focus on its spread throughout the entire Asia-Pacific region. In this committee, you will be the hope of the millions that have had their lives, freedom, and humanity stripped away, as you debate amongst yourselves to save them.

However, this topic is an enormous and heavily deep-rooted problem, and that is why we are here to assist you. This background guide will serve as a starting point for your research, with key information regarding current organisations, case studies, laws, and important diction all here to help you understand the situation. However, this, as mentioned, is only the start. To truly excel in the committee, it is paramount to take what you learn here and continue expanding and delving deep into the agenda. A great place to start would be the references from which we have sourced our own information from!

While thorough preparation sets the stage, your performance during the MUN is the stage where you demonstrate your readiness for recognition and awards. This committee's progress hinges on your ability to propel discussions forward using speeches, notes, and directives. Every delegate is urged to actively contribute, overcoming the challenge of addressing a full committee—a powerful opportunity for personal growth lies beyond that initial fear. We're dedicated to fostering a supportive environment for your comfort in speaking, expecting your best in return. Throughout this entire session, keep in mind the profound impact of the crises we face, and use it as motivation to exacerbate your efforts as you raise your voice to fight for this noble cause.

We look forward to seeing each and every single one of you excel at GWH JMUN 2024.

With appreciation,

Riti Prabhu, Head Chair ([riti024014@greenwoodhigh.edu.in](mailto:riti024014@greenwoodhigh.edu.in))

Ayaan Gupta, Vice Chair ([ayaang@greenwoodhigh.edu.in](mailto:ayaang@greenwoodhigh.edu.in))

Sparsh Bhowmick, Moderator ([sparsh022102@greenwoodhigh.edu.in](mailto:sparsh022102@greenwoodhigh.edu.in))



# INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE



The Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee, or the Third Committee, is one of the six major United Nations General Assembly committees. Established alongside the United Nations itself, on October 24, 1945, the SOCHUM primarily focuses on issues concerning social, cultural, and humanitarian issues on a broad scale, it aims to promote cultural freedom, universal human rights, and the maintenance of a united international society.

The Third Committee engages in conversation and addresses universal social issues, such as the fight for the social, economic, and cultural advancement of the status of women, international and general protection of children, protection of indigenous culture and social factors, protection of refugees, adorning and adopting consensus on the rights of minority groups. Additionally, the SOCHUM discusses agendas concerned with social and economic adaptation and development of youth, the disabled, international and nation-specific crime, and means of tackling such.





# INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA



The International Labor Organization (ILO) defines forced labour as all work which a person is required to do under the threat of punishment and especially in instances where the person has not offered their work voluntarily.

The ILO estimated in 2012 that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally. Of these, 4.5 million are in forced commercial sexual exploitation, and 14.2 million are in other forms of labour exploitation spanning sectors such as agriculture, construction, domestic work and manufacturing. The remaining 2.2 million are in state-imposed forms of forced labour.

The UN defines child labour as work that children should not be doing because they are too young to work, or – if they have reached the minimum age – because it is dangerous or otherwise unsuitable for them. In child labour, children are exposed to dangerous working conditions, slavery, and using them to carry out illegal activities such as drug trafficking (whether or not they accepted to do it). Forced labour and child labour are closely linked. They occur in the same geographical areas, the same industries and are mainly caused by poverty and discrimination, and up to half of all people in forced labour are children.

Afghanistan, and Myanmar had the second and third highest prevalence of modern slavery in the region. India, China, and North Korea had the highest number — and together accounting for two-thirds of all people in modern slavery in the region. Instability continues to shape experiences of modern slavery across high prevalence countries in Asia and the Pacific. For example, the worsening humanitarian situation caused by the political and economic turmoil drives modern slavery practices in Afghanistan and Myanmar. In these contexts, families may resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as marrying their young daughters, to deal with economic stress. In other countries with a high prevalence of modern slavery, such as Pakistan and India, economic insecurity drives workers to take on risky jobs or loans from unscrupulous employers. Employers then exploit these workers by forcing them into labour-intensive jobs to repay their debts

Some examples of locations where such human trafficking takes place includes North Korea, Iraq, Syria, and parts of Eastern Europe. But what must be noted is that these trafficking systems, mostly consisting of the process of harbouring/transporting humans, have evolved to take place across multiple borders; the trafficking network consists of illegal transactions in which the enslaved are oppressed. These trades often enslave the trafficked in forms of domestic servitude, forced labour, sexual exploitation, and other horrendous acts that the committees of the United Nations, especially the committee of Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, have tried to address by attempting to put more attention on preemptively stopping suspected trafficking.



The region hosts the largest number of people in modern slavery, with an estimated 15 million people in forced labour. This includes debt bondage among migrants exploited within the region, hereditary forms of bonded labour in South Asia, and state-imposed forced labour in China, North Korea, and other countries.





# KEY TERMS



1. **Migrant Worker** - Person who migrates or who has migrated from another country to another with a view to being employed otherwise than on his own account and includes any person regularly admitted as a migrant worker”
2. **Forced Labour** - To exact or forcibly take another person’s labour or service, which was not offered by their own free will, under threat of punishment
3. **Human Trafficking** - The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit.
4. **Exploitation** - The act of taking advantage of something or someone, in particular the act of taking unjust advantage of another for one's own benefit
5. **Child Labour** - Employment of children in any work that deprives them of their childhood, potential, and dignity, often hindering their access to education and proper development.
6. **International Labor Standards** - Set of guidelines, agreements, and conventions developed by organisations like the ILO to establish minimum standards for labour rights and conditions.
7. **Fair Labor Practices** - Policies and guidelines ensuring humane working conditions, fair wages, and the protection of workers' rights.
8. **Debt Bondage** - Pledge of an individual’s service in order to repay a debt, often in exploitative conditions
9. **Migration Policy** - Laws regarding the migration of individuals, and in this context, the policies that affect the rights of migrant workers
10. **Informal Economy** - Set of economic activities, jobs, and workers which are not protected nor regulated by the state.



# RELEVANT EVENTS/TIMELINE



**1919- International Labour Organization (ILO):** Established to promote social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights.

**1951 - International Organization for Migration (IOM):** Established to provide services and advice concerning migration and collaborates on migration issues globally.

**1961 - Amnesty International:** Founded to undertake research and action to prevent abuses of human rights.

**1976 - Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC):** Established to support worker struggles, advocate for labour rights, and foster solidarity among workers in Asia.

**1978 - Human Rights Watch:** Formed to protect human rights and hold abusers accountable.

**1986 - Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law, and Development (APWLD):** Founded to promote women's rights and development in the Asia-Pacific region.

**1994 - Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA):** Created to facilitate the development of national and regional strategies on migrant issues.

**1994 - Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW):** Formed to address the human rights violations faced by trafficked persons.

**1999 - Fair Labor Association (FLA):** Founded to promote and protect workers' rights and improve working conditions globally.

**2006 - Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP):** Aimed at enhancing regional cooperation to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

**2007 - International Trade Union Confederation - Asia Pacific (ITUC-AP):** Represents workers' interests and promotes labour rights in the Asia-Pacific region.

**2016 - Alliance 8.7:** Launched as a global partnership to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labour by 2030.





# CASE STUDIES



## Thailand

Thailand has been known for a variety of illegal human labour practices, ranging from forced labour and trafficking to corrupt officials engaging in the transport of detained individuals for work.

To be explicit, a great number of people from neighbouring countries, such as Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia, namely women, are illegally trafficked to work in brothels, hotels, or private residences, and hidden from the acts of corrupt officials and officers that act to protect these locations from inspections or raids. Throughout the country, children, both trafficked and natives, are found to have to be forced to beg and work to provide additional sources of income.

Furthermore, media sources in 2013 had reported a multitude of officials that engaged in illegal practices of selling Rohingya asylum seekers as forced labour, as a means of gaining profit.

The ingrained stream of corrupt officials that not only turn information away from these but continue to accept bribes and act as facilitators has allowed this industry to continue to run rampant throughout the country. Furthermore, the lack of identifying acts of withholding wages, forced overtime, and coercion through forms of debt as forms of exploitation, and in some cases, victims of trafficking has continued to propagate the extent of illegal labour in the country.

## Malaysia

Malaysia is one of the world's biggest exporters of Palm Oil. A majority of the workforce behind the production of goods is made up from migrant workers abroad, with the number being around 85% of the total human capacity. However, a great number of these workers have been found to be forced to work under conditions deemed to be illegal and are exploited by several major companies in order to reduce costs.

Some practices, as made public by testimonials of workers subjected to them, have revealed that companies, such as the Sime Darby Plantation Berhad, illegally "withheld [his] passport" for 9 years, preventing him from leaving the country, and restrained from gaining access to it without a "solid reason". Additionally, it had been found that another major supplier of palm oil, FGV Holdings, that many of its workers had hidden deductions in wages, inadequate supply of basic necessities, and engaged in violations of the Malaysian immigration law by outsourcing its migrant workers to external jobs.



## Myanmar

Thorough studies of worker conditions in Myanmar have further revealed a deep-rooted culture of exploitation and unsafe working conditions. Majority of workers interviewed in a study conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) reveals that many rights, including those pertaining to hours worked, wages received, and health standards did not meet required levels.

In fact, a large number of these workers revealed that they had been deceived both about the nature of the job they had meant to work, and the conditions they were meant to work in, often receiving few or none of the benefits they were meant to receive. Further reports suggest that a proportion of these individuals had been forced into labour through forms of abduction, or being sold, highlighting the illegality of the work they had been forced to go through.

Other workers claimed that their recruiters had resorted to methods of coercion by forms of verbal and physical threats, and by personally affecting them and their families' ability to work through various means, leading to them being forced to work the job they do.

Ultimately, the depths of illegal labour in Myanmar make it difficult to combat, with a sizeable segment of employers in the country engaging in illegal activities, resulting in the extortion of labourers by willingly partaking in breaking the labour laws of the country, in methods such as those listed above, and through a multitude of other common practices.

## India

Child labour in India remains a pervasive challenge, affecting millions of children across diverse sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and domestic service. Driven by poverty, lack of education, and societal norms, children often endure hazardous conditions, long hours, and limited access to schooling.

Children in India are forced to work in a variety of tasks, with the most prevalent being tasks such as sexual exploitation, quarrying, farming, and manufacturing. The conditions in which children are forced to work are no better, often being extremely unsafe and unsanitary.

While legislative measures like the Child Labour Act aim to prohibit and regulate child labour, challenges in enforcement and implementation persist due to resource limitations and corruption. Efforts by the government, NGOs, and civil society have shown progress, yet the issue persists, necessitating continued focus on education accessibility, poverty alleviation, and stricter enforcement to ensure the rights and well-being of children.



# RELEVANT UN TREATIES/INTERNATIONAL LAW



1. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR): The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966 through GA. Resolution 2200A (XXI).

- Article 7 of the ICESCR recognizes the right of everyone to just and favourable conditions of work, which includes fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value.

2. International Labour Organization (ILO): The ILO is a specialised agency of the United Nations that sets international labour standards. The ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work outlines four core labour standards, two of which are particularly relevant to illegal labour:

- Forced Labor (ILO Convention No. 29 and No. 105): These conventions address the prohibition and elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour.

3. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):

- Article 23- "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work".

3. United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) - This comprehensive convention strives to combat human trafficking which may include unjust labour practices.

4. United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: This treaty provides a framework for establishing corporate policies, due diligence processes, and mechanisms for addressing and remedying human rights impacts associated with business activities.

- Pillar 1 calls for the state to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including business enterprises, through appropriate policies, regulations, and adjudication.
- Pillar 2 is about the corporate responsibility of maintaining labour rights

5. Other legal instruments with relevance to the agenda include

- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises:
- ILO Minimum Age Convention (No. 138):
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):
- Other relevant ILO conventions



# QARMA



QARMA stands for “Questions a Resolution Must Answer”.

1. How can SOCHUM define, identify and categorise different forms of illegal human labour?
2. What specific measures should be adopted to identify and combat human trafficking networks operating within and across these regions?
3. How can the SOCHUM resolution address the root causes of illegal human labour, such as poverty, lack of education, and political instability, in these regions?
3. What mechanisms can be put in place for the protection and rehabilitation of victims of illegal human labour in Asia Pacific and South Asian countries?
4. How can the SOCHUM ensure accountability and enforcement of laws against illegal human labour at both national and regional levels?
5. How must the SOCHUM address the needs and rights of vulnerable groups, such as women and children, that are often the most exposed to illegal labour practises.
6. What mechanisms should be created for monitoring and reviewing the progress of the resolution’s implementation in these regions?





# RULES OF PROCEDURE



Rules of procedure refer to the formal conduct delegates are expected to maintain during the conference. It is essential to adhere to the rules and maintain decorum for the smooth flow of the committee. For this conference, we will be adhering to the UNA-USA format of rules of procedure.

## Begin formal session

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” puts forward a motion to begin the formal session.

## Setting the Agenda

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” puts forward a motion to set the agenda as “Agenda of the committee”.

## Roll call

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to begin a roll call. When your allotted country is called upon during the roll call, you have two options either say “present and voting” or simply say “present”. (Note: If a delegate says “present and voting”, they cannot abstain from voting on the resolution at the end of committee.)

## General Speaker’s list

Committee generally begins formal debate by starting the ‘GSL’ (General Speaker’s list). It serves the purpose of allowing a delegate to express their stance on the agenda. A GSL is non-exhaustive.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to establish the general speakers’ list

## Moderated Caucus

This motion can be raised when the committee wants to debate on a specific topic.

How to raise it?: The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to suspend formal session/debate and move into a Moderated Caucus on “topic” for a time period of “x” minutes allotting “x” minute per speaker. In case a delegate does not get recognized to speak, a delegate can send in your point through substantive chit.

## Format of substantive chit:

Substantive chits are written as follows;



To: The Executive Board (may be abbreviated as EB)

From Delegate of: (your allocated country)

### *Unmoderated Caucus*

This motion is proposed when delegates wish to discuss the committee's status among themselves and further evaluate their next actions.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated Caucus for a time period of “x” minutes.

### *Points*

1) Point of Parliamentary Enquiry: This point is raised by a delegate to clarify anything regarding the rules of procedure or to know the status of the committee (For example: to know which delegate is speaking next/ if the EB is accepting more speakers)

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of a parliamentary inquiry.

2) Point of Personal Privilege: This point is raised by a delegate to address a personal issue. (For example: to ask another delegate to repeat a point they made in their speech/to be excused from the committee)

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of personal privilege.

3) Point of Order: This point can be raised by a delegate to point out logical or factual inaccuracies in the speeches of other delegates.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of order, Factual inaccuracy/ Logical Fallacy (either one)

4) Point of Information: This is raised when a delegate wants to ask questions about another delegate's speech.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of information

If you ask a question and are still not satisfied with the answer, you can raise a follow-up question right after the delegate answers.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” wants to raise a follow-up question (Note: This point can be denied if the Chairperson feels so).

If a delegate wants to ask a question VIA chit, you can use this format :

### **POINT OF INFORMATION**

TO: Delegate of “country you want to question”

VIA: Executive Board

FROM: Delegate of “your allotted country”



**\*\*state the question\*\***

### *Working Paper*

A working paper is the preliminary draft of solutions that the committee comes up with, and is usually turned in and presented by the blocs on the second day. They serve as a basis for delegates to see which blocs have stances that align with theirs and to subsequently merge for drafting the final resolution.

Working papers have no strict format. That is, operative and preambulatory clauses are not required, and the paper can be presented in a series of rough points as well.

Sponsors are delegates who have contributed the most towards writing the working paper. For presentation and Q&A, any delegate from the bloc can come up to present the paper and answer relevant questions.

### *Draft Resolution*

A draft resolution or resolution, contains all the solutions that committee wants to introduce in the form of a formal document that will be discussed and put to vote in front of the committee. If passed, this acts as a set of suggestions and recommendations to those who agree with it on the issue at hand.

Sponsors are those who have majorly written the resolution, whose countries must agree with every clause and amendment. The number of sponsors is usually kept between 2 and 4, this will be informed to the committee on the day of the conference.

Signatories are those who would like to see the resolution discussed in front of the committee. A signatory does not necessarily agree with the resolution, just wants to see it be debated. A delegate can be a signatory to more than one resolution. Resolutions must have at least 1/3rd of the committee's strength as signatories to be able to present them to the committee.

An amendment to a resolution is in the form of an edit, addition, or deletion to the resolution that has been presented to the committee. This is usually sent to the chairs after the resolution has been discussed and through a motion, the committee is in an amendment session. If more than 1/3rd the number of a resolution's total number of operative clauses are accepted as amendments, the resolution will be scrapped. When an amendment is presented to the chairs, the sponsors of the resolution will be given the option to either accept it as friendly or unfriendly. A friendly amendment is automatically accepted, and the content that was aimed to be changed, added or deleted is done as such.



An unfriendly amendment means that the committee will vote, to decide whether or not the change shall be made. This is done through a simple majority vote.

1) (To introduce Resolution) the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to introduce \*RESOLUTION NAME\*

2) (Amendments) The delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to move into the amendment session for \*RESOLUTION NAME\*

3) (To vote on the resolution) the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to table the \*RESOLUTION NAME\* for the voting procedure.

### *Resolution Format*

(Name of resolution)

Sponsors:

Signatories:

Topic: XYZ

Committee name,

(Preambulatory Clauses)

1. Every preambulatory clause ends with a comma (,)

(Operative clauses)

1. Every Operative clause ends with a semicolon (;)

2. Every sub-clause to a resolution should end with a comma (,) till and unless it is the last sub-clause to the main clause, it shall end with a semicolon (;)

3. Every main clause before starting with a sub-clause should have a colon (:)

4. Full stop at the end of the resolution

### *Voting*

Voting is of 2 types, procedural and substantive. Procedural voting requires a simple majority, which is set at 50%+1 of committee strength. For example, if a committee has 100 people, the simple majority is set at 51 votes. Procedural Voting is used in cases such as voting upon motions. Substantive voting requires a 2/3rds majority. This is primarily used in voting upon a resolution. For example, if a committee has 100 members, the majority will be set at 67 votes.

### *Press Conference*

The questions may range from matters of foreign policy, the agenda itself or controversial actions by the respective nations of the delegates, with the intended purpose being to test the depth of the research and knowledge of the delegates.





## FURTHER READING



- Guiding principles on business and Human Rights - OHCHR. Available at: [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf) (Accessed: 22 December 2023).
- International Labour Organization. Available at: <https://www.ilo.org/global/lang-en/index.htm> (Accessed: 22 December 2023).
- 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report - US Department of State. Available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/thailand> (Accessed 22 December 2023)
- Palm oil body says it finds exploitative labor practices at Malaysia's FGV - Reuters <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-malaysia-palmoil-fgvholdings-idUSKCN1NZ18J/> (Accessed 22 December 2023)
- Malaysian palm oil giant seeks to repair image after abuse claims- Aljazeera <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/5/25/malaysian-palm-oil-giant-seeks-to-revive-image-amid-labour-claims> (accessed 23 December 2023)
- Internal Labour Migration in Myanmar - International Labour Organization Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-yangon/documents/publication/wcms\\_440076.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-yangon/documents/publication/wcms_440076.pdf) (accessed 23 December 2023)
- Findings on the worst form of Child Labour - India - US Department of Labour Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/india> (accessed 24 December 2023)